

ADDITIONAL FEES:

No additional fees are believed required in connection with this response; however, should it be determined that a fee is due, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fee to our Deposit Account No. 01-0268.

REMARKS

The present application is a Rule 114 Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of application Serial No. 10/047,973, filed January 15, 2002.

In an amendment after final filed November 23, 2007, applicant requested reconsideration of his application by presenting arguments traversing the prior art rejections based on the combined teachings of applicant's prior art disclosure ("APD"), Winer (US 5,796,401), Okazaki (US 7,079,177), and Kelman (US 6,850,896). In an Advisory Action dated January 14, 2008, the Examiner advised that the request for reconsideration does not overcome the prior art rejections of the claims set forth in the final Office Action.

By the present RCE, independent claims 1, 13 and 24 have been amended to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record by defining with more specificity the specific items to be displayed by the display means and edited by the group editing means.

Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24 and the corresponding dependent claims. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of his application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion.

Applicant's arguments for claims 1, 3-8, 11-18, 21-24 and 26 presented in the November 23, 2007 amendment after final are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Independent claims 1, 13 and 24 have been amended to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record by defining with more specificity the specific items to be displayed by the display means and edited by the group editing means. More specifically, amended independent claim 1 recites display means having printing image displaying area for displaying a printing image of a report of analysis results of the analyzer, and an item displaying area for displaying a list of items containing titles and their contents comprised of characters or digits and corresponding to analysis conditions and configured to be arranged in the printing image displaying area. Amended claim 1 further recites group editing means for performing group editing of items containing titles and their contents in the same group by performing character position alignment of the first characters of the contents or digit alignment of the digits of the contents. Independent claims 13 and 24 have been similarly amended. No corresponding structural and functional combinations are disclosed or suggested by the combined teachings of APD, Winer, Okazaki, and Kelman.

On page 2 of the January 14 Advisory Action, the Examiner contends that Winer teaches the group editing means and corresponding function recited in each of independent claims 1, 13 and 24 because as the "boxes" disclosed in Winer are moved for alignment, the first characters in those boxes would be aligned as well. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention and interpretation of the disclosure in Winer.

As set forth in the November 23, 2007 amendment after final, Winer discloses a layout system that enables a user to interrelate objects in one or more permanent relationships by selectively distributing, aligning, sizing, and/or spacing the objects (col. 3, lines 13-20). The "objects" in Winer correspond to boxes that can contain text, graphics, animation, video, outlines, titles, headlines, and other information and data (col. 3, lines 6-11). The "objects" in Winer constitute boxes which do not correspond to "characters" or "digits" as recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 24. Furthermore, the "objects" in Winer particularly do not correspond to items containing titles and their contents comprised of characters or digits, as recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 24 as amended herein.

Column 3, lines 13-17 relied upon by the Examiner in the August 23, 2007 amendment after final describes that the

layout system in Winer "enables objects to be manipulated individually or as a group and to be arranged permanently in various relationships, in which various components or attributes of the objects are interrelated." Thus, the Examiner is construing the "objects" described in col. 3, lines 13-17 of Winer as the "items" of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, in column 11, lines 2-11 Winer describes that "if the user selects any object (i.e., the first object 46, second object 52, or third object 54) by manipulating the mouse pointer 28 to point to the border of the object (i.e., one of the vertical portions of the border 46B of the first object 46, one of the vertical portions of the border 52B of the second object 52, or one of the vertical portions of the border 54B of the third object 54) and clicking the mouse button 6A and dragging, the selected object can be re-sized in width, and the temporary equivalence of widths disappears."

Thus in Winer the object is a rectangular box which can be re-sized. However, if the object in Winer is the rectangular box, that object does not correspond to the items recited in the claims. For example the items of amended claims 1, 13 and 24 correspond to analysis conditions such as parameters including titles and their contents, not boxes. Furthermore, claims 1 and 13 recite display means having two

areas: a printing image displaying area and an item displaying area. Winer does not teach these two displaying areas.

Thus, the group editing in Winer corresponds to group editing of a plurality of object boxes (group of objects) relating to alignment or attributes of the object boxes. That is, Winer discloses editing positions or attributes of the boxes and does not refer to alignment of text or numbers in the box. In contrast, the group editing recited in the claims functions to automatically align the first characters or digits of numbers. Additionally, Winer clearly does not teach the specific function of displaying a list of items containing titles and its contents comprised of characters or digits (i.e., that is performed by the display means), and the specific function of performing group editing items containing titles and their contents by performing character position alignment of the first characters of the contents or digit alignment of the digits of the contents (i.e., that is performed by the group editing means), as recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24.

Furthermore, the invention recited in the present claims relate to a report for analyzing results in an analyzer. In contrast, Winer relates to text and graphic display systems and to a system for designing a layout for a display screen, such as the display screen of a personal computer. Thus, Winer and the claimed invention are directed

to different industrial applications. Unlike in Winer, since the present claims relate to a report for analyzing results in an analyzer, alignment of characters and of digits is particularly necessary.

Okazaki and Kelman also fail to teach the foregoing structural and functional combinations recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24 and, therefore, do not cure the deficiencies of APD as modified by Winer. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the references to attain the claimed subject matter.


Claims 3-8, 11-12 and 14-18, 21-23 and 26 depend on and contain all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the references at least in the same manner as amended claims 1, 13 and 24.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 11-18, 21-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAILING CERTIFICATE

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Donna Riccardulli
Name

Signature

FEBRUARY 25, 2008
Date